

I have run over the literature and manuals and have not found any reference to viviparity in *Corbicula* or *Cyrena*, though of course it is well known in the allied *Sphærium* and *Pisidium*. If it is a characteristic of the Old World *Corbiculas*, it is singular that it has not been hitherto noted.

The prodissoconch in these young shells is rounded, polished and translucent, and presents no remarkable peculiarities.

If the brooding of the nepionic young in a marsupial sac is a further point of distinction between the New and Old World forms, it is probable that it may be regarded as raising the value of the subdivision to higher than sectional rank.

"PYRAMIDULA" ELRODI AND EPIPHRAGMOPHORA CIRCUMCARINATA.

BY ROBERT E. C. STEARNS.

In connection with my remarks upon the above-named forms in the October number of THE NAUTILUS, and Dr. Pilsbry's comments that follow, he says: "The difference between Dr. Stearns' views and my own, of the affinities of the two *Helices*, may be due to his having, perhaps, no examples of *circumcarinata* at hand for direct comparison with *elrodi*." This suggestion is correct. I have not seen an example of *circumcarinata* for ten years, and only a single specimen of *Elrodi*, that heretofore referred to by me.

The dominant features of these shells are surprisingly alike. The many though less conspicuous characters indicated by Dr. Pilsbry in their bearing on the distinctive point, must therefore be accepted. The remarkable similarity exhibited between the forms in question are presumptively, as Dr. Pilsbry observes, the result of similar environmental conditions "acting upon organisms originally diverse, and indeed not closely related."

Closeness of relationship or otherwise, among land-snails inhabiting the same geographic or physiographic area, though the area may include a broad extent of territory, is another and very interesting question.

Regarding the relations of the *strigosa* group of snails, I have for a long time held the opinion that it was decidedly out of place in

Pyramidula, and am pleased to learn on the authority of Dr. Pilsbry that the proper position of this large and varied group will soon be made known.

Los Angeles, Cal., October 12, 1902.

GENERAL NOTES.

"SLUGS" AS MEDICINE.—While in Port Antonio, Jamaica, last March, I collected some *Veronicella sloanei* Cur., and having nothing to put them in, wrapped them in paper and left them on a table in my room at the hotel. During my absence they escaped and began crawling around, much to the disgust of the colored chambermaid who happened in about that time. On my return she filed a vigorous protest against the "nawsty things," and wanted to know what I intended to do with them. She then informed me that they were good for all forms of lung trouble and asthma. They are used as follows: Take a green cocoanut, cut off the end, and drop a good sized "slug" into the milk, in which it will dissolve. The milk is then drunk and is a "sure cure for asthma."

It would be interesting to know whether this is a survival of the old European belief in the efficacy of the slime of "slugs" in pulmonary troubles, carried to the island by the early English settlers, or whether it is a part of the African pharmacopœia introduced with the slaves.—GEO. H. CLAPP.

NOTES ON *HALIOTIS RUFESCENS* SW.—For several months a company of Japanese fishermen has been engaged in collecting abalones on San Clemente Island, and drying the animals for the Japanese and Chinese markets.

Among the shells sent from this island to San Pedro for shipment I recognize quite a large number of fine *Haliotis rufescens* Sw., which is not, or is only very rarely found along the shore of the mainland of southern California at the present time.

Last year I collected an interesting series of this beautiful shell in the shell-mounds on San Nicolas Island, but most specimens of the shell in those mounds are broken or in an advanced stage of disintegration.

Recent collectors of abalones report living specimens of the red abalone very rare on San Nicolas Island.—HENRY HEMPHILL.